

October 18, 2019

Seattle City Council
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council,

We write to you as a group of residents, businesses and civic leaders — concerned about the safety of our city — to urge you to make specific investments and take appropriate action in the city's 2020 budget.

Crimes against people continue to rise in our communities — up 98% in our commercial core and 47% citywide. A recent study revealed that our criminal justice system is not working. It has failed to deter crime, it has failed to find justice for victims and it has failed to help those who become trapped in a cycle of crime, arrest and release. As you shape the city's \$500 million investment in our local criminal justice system, we urge you to prioritize investments and strategies that will reduce recidivism in Seattle and minimize the negative impact of prolific offenders on Seattle neighborhoods. The criminal justice system must work for all of us, but today it fails everyone.

The dysfunction of our criminal justice system has a significant impact on small businesses, residents, workers and visitors across our city. Many of us are ourselves victims of repeat criminal activity enabled by this broken system. Many of us have spent countless hours working with police to help in their investigations. Many of us have spent countless dollars repairing damage, replacing loss, or fortifying our businesses, buildings and homes in the wake of rampant criminal activity. And some of us have been personally harmed by violent behavior on our streets.

In response to concerns expressed by communities across the city, the mayor convened the High Barrier Individual Work Group (HBWG) — comprised of local and regional criminal justice leaders — to begin analyzing system breakdowns. These leaders were tasked with identifying solutions to address the impacts of high-barrier prolific offenders and to achieve better outcomes for the offenders and community at large.

Last month, in their first public update, the HBWG put forward a series of new pilot investments to address some of the gaps for this population. These pilot investments include enhanced probation, case conferencing, and rapid re-entry services with place-based treatment for people leaving jail. These strategies and investments have shown promise locally and in other cities. The mayor has included these pilots in her proposed budget and plans to make common-sense investments in low-acuity crisis response services; community service officers; and continued police emphasis patrols. **These strategies, including probation, should be funded in the 2020 budget and then evaluated upon implementation.**

In addition to funding these aforementioned measures, we urge you to use the oversight and investigative prerogative of the city council to ensure that all our criminal justice dollars are achieving the outcomes we hope to see: crime deterrence and reduction; better outcomes for chronic repeat offenders; reduced harm; and justice for victims in our communities.

It was recently reported that roughly half of all non-traffic criminal cases sent to the City Attorney's Office failed to find any sort of meaningful resolution. Through declines, delays and dismissals, the City Attorney has essentially refused to use the criminal justice system to deal with growing chronic criminal activity that is impacting all of us. This broken system has rippling effects that not only impact victims, but the efficacy of the \$500 million system that the council oversees and funds each year. Police alone spend tens of thousands of hours every year investigating and building cases that pile up at the City Attorney's Office, going nowhere. Meanwhile repeat offenders slip through the system causing more harm in our communities with no help or meaningful plan for intervention in sight.

We urge you to fund the mayor's proposed investments and use your oversight and investigative authority to ensure that the growing staff and budget for the City Attorney's Office yields results for victims, police and prolific repeat offenders.

We can't simply stay the current course and hope to achieve a different outcome.

Sincerely,

Angela Dunleavy Stowell, CEO
Farestart

Al Clise, Owner
Clise Properties

Monisha Singh, Executive Director
Chinatown-ID Business Improvement Area

H.S. Wright III, Chairman & Founder
Seattle Hospitality Group

Jeffrey A. Blosser, President & CEO
Washington State Convention Center

Linda Di Lello Morton & Tamara Murphy, Co-
Owners
Terra Plata

Jena McCullough, General Manager
American Hotel

Patrick Callahan, CEO
Urban Renaissance Group

Jon Scholes, President & CEO
Downtown Seattle Association

Denise Moriguchi, President & CEO
Uwajimaya

Chad Mackay, CEO
Fire & Vine Hospitality
Aqua by E Gaucho
Inn at El Gaucho
Aerlume

Ali Ghambari, Owner
Cherry Street Coffee House

Erin Goodman, Executive Director
SODO Business Improvement Area

Bernadine Griffin, Managing Director
The 5th Avenue Theatre

Tom Norwalk, President
Visit Seattle

Jordan Kinser, Mike Klotz, Katie Lybeck
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Graciela Gomez Cowger, CEO
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Jane Nelson, Owner
Nelson & Nelson

Charles Costanzo, Vice President & General
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The American Waterways Operators

Tom Douglas, Owner
Tom Douglas Restaurants

Eric Tanaka, Partner and Executive Chef
Tom Douglas Restaurants

Howard Anderson, Chair
Denny Triangle Neighborhood Association

Mike Stewart, Executive Director
Ballard Alliance

Mark Crawford, Interim Executive Director
U District Partnership

Davis Carvey, President
NoMo Condo Association (Ballard)

Bill Weise, Chair
Seattle Tourism Improvement District

Matt Griffin, Managing Partner
Pine Street Group

James Lechner, General Manager
Stoneburner
Bastille Cafe and Bar

Rick Yoder, Owner
Wild Ginger

Greg Smith, CEO
Urban Visions

Jasmine Donovan, President
Dick's Drive-In Restaurants

Jonathan Flemming, Owner
D&E Pioneer Square

Sean O'Rourke, President
Seattle Hotel Association

Craig Schafer, Owner
Hotel Andra

Diane Holliday Germain, General Manager
The Westin Seattle

Carla Murray, COO Western Region
Marriott International

Juergen Oswald, General Manager
Hilton Seattle

Tom Wolf, General Manager
Hyatt Regency Seattle

Steve Vissotzy, Managing Director
Hyatt at Olive 8 & Grand Hyatt Seattle

Michael Clark, General Manager
Renaissance Seattle Hotel

Shannon Sheron, Managing Director
Hotel Sorrento

Amanda Parsons, General Manager
Thompson Hotel Seattle

Yu Kamakari, Office Manager
Best Western Plus Pioneer Square Hotel

Chris Tudor, General Manager
Tudor Inns & Seattle Laundry Service

John Oppenheimer, CEO
Columbia Hospitality

Anna Boone, Local Government Affairs
Seattle Restaurant Alliance

Jim Rowe, President & CEO
E3 Restaurant Group

Travis Rosenthal, Founder/Owner
Pike Street Hospitality Group

Tim Holt, Senior Vice President
Washington Holdings

Mark Houtchens, President
Vance Corporation

Barry Blanton, Principal
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Charles Riley, Shareholder
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John DeFeo, President
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Shawn Hammer, Owner
Shaw

Quentin W. Kuhrau, CEO & Chairman of the
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Unico Properties

Brian Wabik, Director of Real Estate Services
Unico Properties

Ashanti Bitar, Property Manager
Century Square

Daniel Byrne, Owner
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Dakota West, LLC

John G. Maietta, Store Manager
Ben Bridge Jeweler, 4th & Pike

Todd Carden, Co-Owner
Elliott Bay Brewing Company

Jim Riggle, Owner
Olympic Athletic Club
Hotel Ballard

Erin McKinnon, Owner
Erin Alice LLC

Jim Neal, Cofounder & Managing Principal
Talon Private Capital, LLC

Jody Elsom, Owner
Elsom Cellars

Scott Soules, Property Owner
Eighth & Stacy, LLC
Sixth & Stacy, LLC

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Henbart LLC

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Winant Properties

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Coughlin Porter Lundeen

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Stephen Barger, President/Owner
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Katwall, Inc

Aaron Barthel, Owner
Intrigue Chocolate

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Miles Richardson, General Manager
Audi Seattle / University Volkswagen

Susan Benton, Property Manager
Retail Opportunity Investments Corp

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Seattle Fitness

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Benjamin Rainbow, Owner
Back Alley Bike Repair

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Urbanadd Architects

Susan Benton, Property Manager
Retail Opportunity Investments Corp

Bill Barry, Managing Partner
Grafeka Corp

Dina Alhadeff, Property Manager
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Dawn Perry & Russell Cornell, Owners
Floating Bridge Brewing

Leigh Valentine, Title President
Newmark Tower Condominium

Zahoor Ahmed, CFO/VP
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Karen Davis, Tenant Services
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Mark Rosenwald, Site Logistics Coordinator
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Ruth Danner, President
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Earthwise Salvage

Jeffery Pelletier, Architect & Founder
Board & Vellum

Will Lavaris, CFO
Buffalo Industries

Patti Blue, Owner
Planet Java Diner

Paul Osher, Owner
Porkchop & Co

Alex Lim, Owner
Alex Lim Photographer

Cherri Bohannon
Nestle Coffee Partners

Gretchen Taylor, Vice President
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Adam Hewey
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Megan Connvers
Bon Voyage Vintage

Rebecca Blanchard
Stonington Gallery

Rey Olivaries
Ebbets Field Flannels

Christy Smith, General Manager
Crowne Plaza Seattle

Tom Weingarten, Owner
Western Foil Corporation

Peter and Kristie Kisbye, Owners
Annie's Art and Frame

Emily Mabus, Owner
Other Coast Cafe

Lanne Stauffer, Owner
Market Street Shoes

Legh Burner, Owner
re-Soul and Sole Food

Tom Malone, Owner
Malone Law Group

Eric Stoll, Managing Member
Stoll Petteys PLLC

Destiny Sund, Owner
The Confectional Located in Pike Place Market

Ryan Suddendorf, Co-Founder
Arriba Cantina

Ryan Smith, Principal
Martin Smith Inc

Judith M Runstad, Director
Wright Runstad & Co

Skye Saylor, Owner
Marnin Saylor

Bill Weisfield, Principal
Elliot Bay Asset Solutions

John Delaney, President
Windstar Cruises

Louise Little, CEO
University Bookstore

Lois Ko, Owner
Sweet Alchemy Ice Cream

Erin Schneider Soldezzo
Axis Pioneer Square

Sariki Schutte & Caitlyn Villegas
Utilikilts

John Siscoe
The Globe Bookstore

Jake Smith
Simply Seattle

Joseph E. & Gina Barone Simmons
Barone Crystal Sales

James Vegas, Director of Museum Operations
MoPOP

Vance Wilson
Quality Athletics

Grant Wojahn
Quote Wizard

Aysin Yenioum
Leicht Seattle YS Built

Jesse Spring
Bad Bishop

David James
Pioneer Pet Feed & Supply

Kayla Lean
Jujubeet Cafe

Mark Kullberg
Agate Designs

Michelle Rosenthal
Ballard Resident

Phu Dang
I5 Pho

Stephanie Carrillo
Ballard Resident

Mike Carr, Owner
Performance Radiator

Nathan Engman
Ballard Resident

Joseph Dayup, Operations Manager
Gelatiamo

Janice Blair
Downtown Resident

Erin Demmon
Urban Yoga Spa

Priscilla & Ted Tanase
Downtown Residents

Melody Young
My Biz Pro, LLC
Rest Stay Tour, LLC

Melanie H & Gerard G Vavrek
Downtown Residents

Michael Porter
Greenwood Heating

Maria Barrientos, Principal
Barrientos/Ryan LLC

Bryant Casal
Casal Properties

Stephen Lock
Wayne Locke & Sons

Dr. Nikole O'Bryan
Property & Business Owner - U District

Scott Soules
Commercial Property Owner - U District

Chris Ackerman
Ballard Resident

Eli Fisher
Ballard Resident

Gretchen Swanson
Ballard Resident